

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /070 W

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P R 121040Z JAN 76 ZFG

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5013

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CH PINT

SUBJECT: CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH: ATMOSPHERICS

1. SUMMARY: PEKING'S MOURNING GAINED MOMENTUM JANUARY 12 AS THE  
MASSES HAVE NOW BEEN ALLOWED TO JOIN IN PUBLIC CEREMONIES.

2. AFTER OVER 10,000 LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF PEKING VIEWED CHOU'S  
REMAINS IN THE HOSPITAL, THE BODY WAS TAKEN, IN AFTERRNOON OF JANUARY  
11, TO PAPAOSHAN WEST OF THE CITY FOR CREMATION. MANY THOUSANDS OF  
PEKING INHABITANTS LINED THE STREETS TO WATCH THE FORMAL PROCESSION  
PASS.

3. ON MORNING OF JANUARY 12, FOREIGN "FRIENDS", DIPLOMATS AND  
SELECTED CHINESE MASS REPRESENTATIVES FILED INTO THE WORKS' CULTURAL  
PARK TO PAY RESPECTS TO CHOU'S PICTURE AND ASHES. USLO ACTING CHIEF  
AND EIGHT OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THIS CEREMONY. IN  
ATMOSPHERE UNRELIEVEDLY SOLEMNIZED BY DIRGE FROM LOUDSPEAKERS THROUGH

-  
OUT THE PARK, THE PRINCIPAL CEREMONY WAS HELD IN THE ANCIENT PALACE

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TEMPLE USED FOR THE FUNERALS OF TUNG PI-WU AND KANG SHENG (AND, IN

EARLIER TIMES FOR DISPLAY OF MING AND CHING EMPERORS'S ANCESTRAL TABLETS). MOVING PAST CIVILIAN MASS AND PLA REPRESENTATIVES, THOSE PAYING RESPECTS SIGNED CONDOLENCE BOOK, SHOOK HANDS WITH FOREIGN

MINISTER AND OTHER DIGNITARIES, STOOD FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE BEFORE PREMIER'S PHOTOGRAPH AND FILED BACK OUT OF THE PARK.

4. INSIDE THE PARK, THOUSANDS OF SILENT CHINESE, WEARING TRADITIONAL WHITE FLOWER AND ARMBAND, WAITED PATIENTLY FOR FOREIGN CONTIN- GENTS TO PASS, WHILE OUTSIDE TENS OF THOUSANDS MORE MOVED PAST WREATHS

PLACED ON THE MARTYRS MONUMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TIEN AN MEN SQUARE. THOUSANDS OF OTHERS CAME TO WATCH, MANY OF THEM APPARENTLY HAVING COME NEWLY INTO PEKING, AND BY MID-AFTERNOON, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS HAD GATHERED IN OR MOVED THROUGH TIEN AN MEN SQUARE. THE CROWDS, THE BIGGEST IN THE SQUARE SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION WERE SOLEMN, MOSTLY SILENT, AND MANY PEOPLE WERE TEARFUL.

5. PEOPLE'S DAILY ON JANUARY 11 CARRIED CONDOLENCE MESSAGES ON THE FIRST AND FOUR OTHER PAGES. INCLUDED WERE THE MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT

FORD TO CHAIRMAN MAO AND TO CHU TEH AND, ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE, THE STATEMENT MADE BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON. PEOPLE'S DAILY ON JANUARY 12 REPORTS ON THE FIRST PAGE THE VISIT BY CHINESE LEADERS AND MASS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE HOSPITAL TO VIEW CHOU'S REMAINS AND CARRIES A PICTURE OF CHOU LYING IN STATE DRAPED WITH A FLAG SHOWING THE HAMMER AND SICKLE. FOUR INSIDE PAGES ARE DEVOTED TO CONDOLENCE MESSAGES. PEKING RADIO BROADCASTING IS STILL DOMINATED BY READINGS OF THE MESSAGES.

THAYER

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## Message Attributes

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